



STATE STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF INDIANA



Changing the Name of the Higher Education Grant

During the 2003-2004 special session, the General Assembly passed a resolution asking SSACI to rename the Higher Education Grant to the *Frank O'Bannon Grant* in order to honor the late governor and recognize his commitment to education. We are pleased to do so. However, the resolution also made it clear that we are not to change in any way the Higher Education Award or the Freedom of Choice award, which, collectively, are the Frank O'Bannon Grant. What does this mean for you (and us)?

- In any documentation -- handouts, web pages, letters, et cetera – and presentations in which you refer to the Higher Education GRANT, you should now refer to the Frank O'Bannon Grant. The Frank O'Bannon Grant is the umbrella grant and the main state need-based grant.
- The name Frank O'Bannon Grant will be used in place of any and all of the following combination references: "Higher Education Grant", "Higher Education Award & Freedom of Choice Award", and "HEA/FOC". That is, *anytime the HEA and FOC are mentioned together as one grant*.
- In many cases, it is appropriate to say, or write, "The student received a Frank O'Bannon Grant in the amount of \$9,100". However, you may refer to the separate Higher Education Award and the Freedom of Choice Award, especially in award letters or financial aid packages, where an award and a dollar amount are listed and detail is required.

Some Examples of How the New Name Will Be Used

From various SSACI handouts, slide shows, reports, and surveys:

- *The Frank O'Bannon Grant Program Comprised of the Higher Education Award and Freedom of Choice Grant*. The Frank O'Bannon Grant is the largest program administered by SSACI. It is available to full-time students.

From various SSACI annual reports (referring to higher education sectors):

- If a student attends a public or proprietary institution, the Frank O'Bannon Grant is called the *Higher Education Award (HEA)*. If a student attends an independent college, the Frank O'Bannon Grant is broken up into two parts: a portion is called the Higher Education Award and a portion the *Freedom of Choice (FOC)* award.

From various college web sites:

- Filing the FAFSA after March 10th will cause you to lose eligibility for state assistance - the *Frank O'Bannon Grant (the Indiana Higher Education Award and the Freedom of Choice Award)* and the 21st Century Scholarship.
- The *Frank O'Bannon Grant Program*, designed to provide access for Hoosier students to attend eligible postsecondary institutions, receives its funding through appropriations made by the Indiana General Assembly.
- The application for the *Frank O'Bannon Grant Program* is the FAFSA. When you file the FAFSA, and if you are an Indiana resident, you automatically apply for the *Frank O'Bannon Grant*.

Please note carefully the difference between referring to the umbrella GRANT and the specific and detailed AWARDS. If you have questions on how to use the new name, please contact us. Note also that we do not want to abbreviate the name or use an acronym. The full Frank O'Bannon Grant should be used in every case. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us honor Governor O'Bannon.